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## DISCOVERIES AT THISBE IN 1889.

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### I. REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS.

Between March 18 and 21, I made a trip to Kakosia, the work of laying bare the foundations by the sea, at Anthedon, being meanwhile superintended by Mr. Buck. The village of Kakosia lies between two peaks of Mt. Helikon, not far from the sea. On the hills which immediately surround it, and in the village itself, are well-preserved remains of the walls of an ancient town, built of regular blocks of bluish limestone and strengthened by numerous towers. The walls are of Leake's "fourth order," consisting of a double line of well-cut, regular blocks, the interval between them being filled in with loose stones. In the village are clear traces of one of the gates, and just outside it, in a wheat field, traces of the foundations of a large building. There are also the remains of a mole (now serving as a road) across a marshy plain to the southward, evidently to protect the plain from inundation. It seems to be certain that this village stands directly on the site of ancient Thisbe, as was concluded by Leake and others (from Strabo, *Geog.*, 411, and Pausanias, ix. 32. 3). The only building which Pausanias mentions in Thisbe is a temple of Herakles, with a standing statue of the god. Judging from the great number of churches (twenty-three in all, I was told), Thisbe must have been an important place in Byzantine times. Since the modern village stands directly on the ancient site, extensive excavations must involve considerable expense. I found, however, a great number of Byzantine churches in ruins, and I judged that a few days of work in and around these might yield good results. I returned to Anthedon, finished the excavations by the harbor and cleared off the walls, and on March 27 began work at Thisbe with fifteen men, a number which was afterward increased to twenty. Trenches were first dug in and around the church "Ὅσιος Λουκᾶς, within the limits of Kakosia, but just outside the ancient walls. In front of the church we found a Byzantine pillar of fine white marble, apparently for supporting a screen or curtain. It is ornamented in front with a conventional design in relief, and has a smooth, pear-shaped top, separated from the main shaft by

a narrow neck. The dimensions are as follows: height, 1.77 m.; breadth, 0.20 m.; thickness, 0.135 m. The top is 0.17 m. high and 0.47 m. in circumference. In the pavement of the church we found six inscribed tombstones. An examination of the walls of the church, with as little damage as possible, yielded no inscriptions.

In the pavement of the church 'Αγία Τριάς, which was next examined, were found three inscribed tombstones. As the walls of this church were mainly composed of rough masses of stone, and were without architectural or artistic interest, and as they evidently contained inscriptions, I felt justified in tearing down a part of them. Four fragments of inscriptions were found here. The arched entrance was left standing, but was afterward thrown down by the boys of the village. In a third church ('Αγία Κυριακή or "Αγιος Ἡλίας), of which nothing but the foundations remained, four inscribed bases and tombstones were found. Two of the former, though we found them under ground, prove to have been published.

At this point, the Directors of the School, Dr. Waldstein and Professor Tarbell, arrived at Kakosia, and decided to concentrate all our energies at Plataia.

JOHN C. ROLFE.

## II. INSCRIPTIONS FROM THISBE.

The following inscriptions were found by Mr. Rolfe at Thisbe (Kakosia) in March, 1889. Those to which *R* is prefixed are edited on the basis of Mr. Rolfe's copies alone; to him also the measurements are chiefly due.

I.—R. Marble slab, used in the pavement of the ruined church 'Αγία Τριάς. Height, 0.77 m.; breadth, 0.45 m.; thickness, 0.30 m.; height of letters, 0.03 m. In the upper surface there is a round hole with a diameter of 0.14 m.

ΕΥΘΥΝΙΔΑΣ

Εὐθυνίδας

II.—Marble slab in pavement of same church. Height, 0.765 m.; breadth, 0.525 m.; thickness, 0.28 m.; height of letters, 0.023 m.

Φ Ι Ξ . Λ Α Ο Ξ

Φισ[ό]λαος

The letters have the forms characteristic of the Hellenistic period. They are regularly, though very widely, spaced. A rectangular cut